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Weather Forecast		Today
		High:65 Low:37
Saturday	Sunday	
High:66 Low:46	High:63 Low:33	

FRIDAY

Fort Riley Post



Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April. Time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. Remember to set your clocks for the change.

April 4, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 46, No. 14

Troops near Baghdad, humanitarian efforts continue in Iraq

By Paul Salopek and Mike Dornig
Chicago Tribune

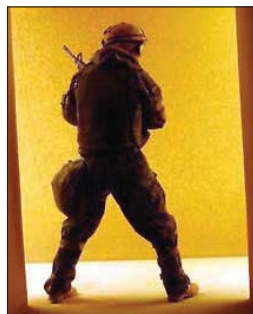
CHAMCHAMAL, Iraq — U.S. warplanes delivered some of the most intense bombing of Baghdad yet Thursday, while American soldiers and their Kurdish allies bolstered a newly established northern front against the regime of Saddam Hussein.

U.S. and British warplanes focused hundreds of bombing missions on Republican Guard units that are trying to blunt the allied coalition's advance on the capital.

With huge explosions rocking central Baghdad and a blistering sandstorm ending across southern Iraq, U.S. military planners turned their attention to how best to quickly rout heavily armed Republican Guard forces outside the capital.

Iraq's defense minister predicted allied forces would encircle Baghdad within five or 10 days but that the battle for the city would take place on its streets.

"The enemy must come inside Baghdad, and that will be its grave," Defense Minister Sultan Hashem Ahmed said, shortly before the most powerful allied bombing in days targeted communications and com-



Chicago Tribune Photo/Nathan Dornig

A U.S. soldier with the 2nd Battalion 70th Armor, traveling north inside Iraq clears a building outside the town of Najaf.

powerful allied bombing in days targeted communications and com-

See Efforts Page 4

Fort Riley soldier killed in hostile fire incident

The Department of Defense announced April 2 the identity of a Fort Riley soldier killed April 1 during a hostile fire incident in Iraq.

Dead is Sgt. Jacob Lee Butler, 24, of Wellsville, Kan. Butler was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Butler joined the Army on Nov.

13, 1998, and has been stationed at Fort Riley since Nov. 19, 2001.

He was assigned as a cavalry scout in the battalion.

Fort Riley commanders, soldiers, civilian employees and Family Readiness Groups are providing ongoing assistance to all families of soldiers supporting the war effort and are prepared to continue around the clock assistance throughout this operation.



Travis Tritt visits with soldiers who are preparing to deploy while he was at Fort Riley March 28. Tritt's visit was part of the Spirit of America Tour, a project of the Robert and Nina Rosenthal Foundation, Inc.

Country music performer visits soldiers

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

Country music singer Travis Tritt visited Fort Riley last Friday as part of the Spirit of America Tour, a project of the Robert and Nina Rosenthal Foundation, Inc.

He spoke to troops that were getting ready to deploy to Central Command locations. He also stopped at the Soldier and Family Support Center and spoke to the families of soldiers already deployed.

Tritt said he had a great time meeting the soldiers and families at Fort Riley.

"We have been trying to get to as many military installations as we can," said Tritt. "I hope to go to as many as a dozen military bases and let folks know how much we appreciate the work that's going on out there."

Tritt's fondness for soldiers began in 1992 when he did a video for a song called "Any More." He played a disabled Ameri-

can veteran in the video.

"We shot [the video] at a veterans' clinic in Tennessee," said Tritt. "All of the people in the video were either staff at the hospital or actually military men and women who were patients there. We came back to debut it there for them... It truly touched my heart. I saw a group of people who seemed excited that someone was speaking out on their behalf and was willing to draw attention to veterans and veteran issues. It inspired me to be a part of it."

Since then, Tritt served as the Disabled American Veterans Association spokesperson for three years. He said he has truly enjoyed that job.

"I got to meet some of the most incredible heroes — true American heroes," said Tritt. "I got to meet people I would never have imagined I would get the privilege of meeting, much less get the opportunity to call them friends. I heard some really great stories, and I feel like they are a group that

is close to my heart."

Tritt said he is visiting military posts to give the soldiers a message.

"Many in the entertainment business believe not only in our president and his policies, but they believe in soldiers," said Tritt. "They know that this is the best trained, most efficient fighting force on the planet, bar none — The American soldier. My message is not only to the military men and women out there serving in the field, but the men and women who are back home, their families who are on American soil and see those reports on a daily basis. I want to let them know that there are people fighting in their corner, too."

The morale of the men and women that are being deployed impressed Tritt.

"You hear a lot of talk about morale. Given the opportunity to visit a place like Fort Riley, you see it," he said. "Spirits are

See Tritt Page 3

Homeland defense topic of McHale visit

By Michael Watson
Staff writer

The Homeland Security Level is High (Orange), and that means a credible threat on American soil exists.

Under the high alert level, the public should stay alert and maintain emergency preparedness. If a threat arises, military teams will protect American citizens, Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, said.

"We discovered on Sept. 11, 2001 that the bad guys know how to get into our rear area, and if we don't stop them, they could kill a lot of good people — our friends, our neighbors, our families, our property, and if we let them, our freedom, ultimately," McHale said.

In days past, he said the United States did not have to worry about attacks at home. Before, wars were fought using overseas deployments.

"But with changing technology, as we saw on Sept. 11, 2001 — the bad guys used conventional aircraft and took the lives of a lot of good people, and brought down the World Trade Center and attacked the building where I and

a bunch of other folks work, at the Pentagon," he said.

However, he said the attack could have been a lot worse, and a lot more destructive, if the enemy had been using weapons of mass destruction. And the enemy is currently seeking these devices he said.



Paul McHale, assistant secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, listens to Capt. Drew A. Hettich, S1, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, during his visit to Fort Riley.

"So, we have to be prepared, as never before, to beat them — not only overseas but also here in the United States, if they mount an attack," he said.

McHale spoke to 1st Bn., 16th Inf. soldiers about the importance of their continued training and mission readiness March 28. After

watching them train on basic tasks, including the establishment of site security and a roadblock to conduct checkpoints, he said they were well trained.

Maj. David Indermuehle, G3 operations officer, said the assistant secretary's visit does not mean an attack is imminent. He is just new to the assistant secretary position, and the briefings and training exercises were a good way for him to see the preparation training and mission readiness capabilities.

If soldiers at Fort Riley get the call to deploy to an area of hostility, McHale said they should be prepared for the real deal.

"We are not going to deploy you into an area of operations unless we really believe there are bad guys coming," he said.

That used to be a fictional scenario — something you would read in a Tom Clancy novel, McHale said, but not any more. Now, soldiers need to be prepared for anything at home.

"Focus in on your mission. Make sure you understand what is expected of you. Make sure you are good to go," he said. "Because, I give you my word, we are not going to call out the best

See McHale Page 5

New commanding general named

The Chief of Staff, Army announced March 31 the selection of Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy as the incoming Commanding General of the 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley to replace Acting Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick.

Hardy is currently assigned as Director of Force Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, United States Army, Washington, D.C.

Hardy was commissioned through Gonzaga University ROTC program where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Auditing. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Washington State University in Comptrollership.

In Hardy's 31 years of active commissioned service, he has served overseas in Germany, Korea, Bosnia and Kosovo as well as numerous assignments throughout the United States.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit, with three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, with five oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, and the Army Achievement Medal, with one oak leaf cluster. He has earned the Parachute Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Among his many significant positions are Assistant Division Commander (Support), 1st Armored Division, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany; Commander, Task Force Falcon and Multinational Brigade, Operation Joint Guardian, East Kosovo; Commander, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La., and Operations Joint Guard/Joint Forge, Bosnia; and Joint Training Planner, J7, Operational Plans and Interoperability Directorate, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Hardy's report date has yet not been announced.



Helmick promotion ceremony set today on Ware Parade Field

Staff Reports

Col. (P) Frank G. Helmick, commander, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley, will be promoted to brigadier general this afternoon. The promotion ceremony will take place on Ware Parade Field at Fort Riley at 4 p.m.

Helmick has held a variety of command and leadership positions. He served as a platoon leader of both a rifle and mortar platoon, and company executive officer, 1st Cavalry Division. He commanded Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Caval-

ry Division, and 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga.

Helmick also held a variety of staff positions from battalion to the Joint Staff level. He served as liaison officer to United States Forces Caribbean during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, and Aide to the Deputy Corps Commander XVIII Airborne Corps. Helmick was the Battalion S-3, 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., and

Battalion S-3 and Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy. Additionally, he served in the 75th Ranger Regiment as the Regimental S-3 and Executive Officer at Fort Benning, Ga.

Helmick was also the Infantry Lieutenant Colonel's Assignment Officer and Distribution Management Officer for the Officer Personnel Management Directorate. After Battalion Command with the 82nd Airborne Division he served as the G-3 of the 82nd Airborne Division. His last assignment was as the Chief of Opera-

tions for Anti-Terrorism in the J-3 on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

Helmick's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, with seven oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, with one oak leaf cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, with one oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Army Service Ribbon,

the Overseas Ribbon, the Multinational Force and Observers Medal, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantry Badge, and the Master Parachutists Badge.

Helmick assumed duties as the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver of Fort Riley in July

2002. Since September he has been the commander 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley due to the required absence and subsequent promotion of Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz.

In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be conducted at King Field House.

Current Stop Loss policy defined by Army

Staff Reports

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Reginald L. Brown approved the Department of Defense and Army leadership Stop Loss Policy in February.

The policy is to support the stability and strengthen unit cohesiveness and teamwork of deploying Active Component forces. It is also to bolster the trust and confidence of soldiers as they prepare to deploy.

Soldiers become subject to stop loss when their unit is alerted for deployment, as well as units that are already deployed to Central Command locations.

The Stop Loss program suspends regulations and policies that allow separations from active duty, including retirement. It can only be used during a Presidential call up of Reserve soldiers, partial or full mobilization. As long as reserves are called to active duty,

those affected by Stop Loss cannot voluntarily retire or leave military service. Those who are being involuntarily discharged are not affected.

Soldiers eligible for mandatory retirement, disability retirement and those soldiers pending separation for quality of service are not subject to Stop Loss.

Stop Loss must be based upon the operational requirements.

The current 12-month, skill-based and Reserve Component unit Stop Loss policies are unchanged at this time.

The advantages of Stop Loss

are that the military retains trained, experienced and skilled manpower that is essential to the national security of the United States. It also stabilizes units for combat and contingency operations.

Stop Loss focuses on critical Army shortages and reduces training time prior to deployment.

The stop loss will be lifted based on the stability needs of the operational environment.

Ready Reserve soldiers are not affected by this new Stop Loss policy.

Ready Reserve soldiers remain affected by either the current skill

based Stop Loss or the Reserve Component stop loss already in affect. Active Duty soldiers affected by the 12-month skill-based stop loss are also not affected by this policy. They have the choice to continue serving, if in good standing, or may separate from the Army when they have fulfilled their 12-month obligation under Stop Loss.

The commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, will remain the exception to policy authority for all Active Army soldiers requests based on compassionate or compelling reasons.

Grunt By Wayne Udden



Job Fair scheduled

By DeAnn Parsons
ACAP

The Army Career and Alumni Program is sponsoring a Job Fair April 25, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the ACAP Center on Main Post, building 210, room 7. There will be employers present to talk with and interview prospective employees for positions throughout the United States and some overseas locations. A list of employers invited to this Job Fair will be posted in the ACAP Center, building 210, room 6.

Interested applicants should follow a few simple steps. Research the companies that you would like to visit. The Internet is a good place to start. Be ready to talk to employers and be enthusiastic about the skills you have to offer. Remember, these are employers that like to hire veterans because they know how valuable your skills are. Have your resume ready, but if you do not have your resume completed, come anyway. You can always send your resume to employers that ask for it later. Come dressed as though you are going for an interview. You may be meeting your next employer for the very first time, so make a good first impression. Visit the ACAP Center, building 210, room 6 or call 239-2278 for more information.

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan is having an open season until June 30.

The TSP contribution limit for FERS employees for 2003 is 13 percent. The TSP contribution limit for CSRS employees for 2003 is 8 percent. The loan interest rate for new loans is 3.87 percent. You must enroll online for TSP, no hard copies will be accepted.

Go to www.abc.army.mil or call 1-877-276-9833. For more information on TSP, go to www.tsp.gov.





Fort Riley Honor Guard soldier remembered at memorial service

By Jamie Bender
Staff writer

A memorial service was held for Fort Riley Honor Guard member Spc. Derek Junk on March 24. Junk died March 13, when he was thrown from his horse.

After an invocation and the national anthem, Junk was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Junk was remembered by Sgt. Joel Mosier and Spc. Matthew Hutzenbiller for his sense of humor and his positive attitude.

"The honor guard is a special unit that holds people together and brings out the best caring attitude that each of us have," said Mosier. "Everyone has something special he brings to the group that each of us can use and learn from. Spc. Junk brought his sense of humor and his work ethic. He never complained when we had to work late. He always rose to the occasion

and chose to be optimistic and funny. Mosier also related some memories other honor guard members shared with him.

"Spc. Josh Poinsett remembered his professionalism," said

"We were proud Derek was in our ranks -- whether surveying the locations of the great guns or representing the ceremonial cavalry heritage of our Army."

—Lt. Col. David Byrn
Commander,
1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery

Mosier. "During his 40 hour training, he had an uncanny way of keeping his right hand on his thigh. That's what he's supposed to do."

Mosier gave a recent example of Junk's sense of humor that made him stand out from the group.

"We were all at Moon Lake,

next to the playground area. While mounted on Donk (his horse), he was standing next to the slide. I heard him say 'Come on, Donk. Let's go down the slide.' I laughed. It was his voice and the way that he said it that made it so

funny. No one else could have duplicated it."

Junk was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery. Lt. Col. David Byrn, battalion commander, spoke about what Junk meant to the company.

"We were proud Derek was in our ranks," said Byrn, "whether surveying the locations of the great guns or representing the ceremonial cavalry heritage of our Army."

Byrn also thanked Junk's parents for raising a boy into a man of character. He thanked Junk's wife for encouraging him and spending her time with him as he served the Nation.

The memorial service concluded with a roll call and 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of Taps.

Talk Around Town

"What do you think about Travis Tritt coming to Fort Riley?"



"I was thrilled when they told me he was coming here. I got him to sign my DCU Bonney Cap."

Spec. Mike Bowles
Company B,
1st Battalion 13th Armor



"I am not a big country music fan, but I am sure a lot of the guys were glad to meet him. And, it's nice to know that he cares about soldiers."

Spec. Anthony Livhits
Company A,
1st Battalion, 13th Armor



"I thought it was a real inspiration to have someone of such popularity to take time out to give support to all of the soldiers that are fighting for a cause. It was an honor to meet him in person."

Sgt. Robert K. McBride
Company B,
1st Battalion, 13th Armor

Tritt

continued from page 1

up and these people know that they are well trained in their job. They know that they will be able to go over there and win and carry out the mission that they set forth to do.

"And that's inspiring to me and to any American, I think. It makes you feel good to be a part of this country, knowing you have men and women like that, that are so confident in their abilities and what they are trained to do. It

makes you feel good when you lie in bed at night and know that you are defended by a group of people like that."

The soldiers stood in long lines to get the opportunity to shake Tritt's hand or get his autograph. Many brought cameras to capture the experience on film.

Pfc. Arthur Cagle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, said it was a good experience for him.

"I'm honored," said Cagle. "It was one of those moments you don't think is really going to happen. I'm glad he came out here, and I'm impressed that he did this for the soldiers out here.

It's going to raise my morale. It's going to be something to talk about on the battlefield and look back on and be happy about," he said.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Fort Riley Burger King and DCA MWR will team together on April 19 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Carnival. This free activity will take place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fort Riley Burger King on Custer Hill. The event will feature over 2,000 eggs, a Moonwalk, sack races and ring-toss event. Toddlers up to 4 years old will begin hunting eggs at 1:10 p.m. (toddlers must be able to walk unattended), followed by 5 to 7 year-olds beginning at 1:30 p.m. and finally 8-11 year-olds at 1:50 p.m.

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Security tightened at checkpoints after recent suicide bombing

By Hugh Dellios and Michael Martinez
Chicago Tribune staff reporters

DOHA, Qatar — The suicide bombing that killed four U.S. soldiers recently prompted coalition commanders to order their troops to tighten security measures and defenses against guerrilla attacks. "What it requires is units to conduct force-protection activities," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Saturday. "It looks and feels like terrorism," he said. "Clearly when you see a tactic like this, it requires strict adherence or adjustments to your tactics, techniques and procedures to ensure that places like checkpoints are not vulnerable."

Some coalition military commanders in Iraq already were instructing soldiers not to allow any vehicles to even approach the checkpoints anymore. The occupants would have to walk. "Any vehicle that approaches the checkpoint,

we'll have to take appropriate measures," said Maj. Eric Wick, executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor. Asked whether that meant the approaching vehicle would be fired upon, Wick said yes. "Saddam is betting that such precautionary measures will alienate the population," said Shmuel Bar, a senior fellow at Israel's Institute of Policy and Strategy and an expert on terrorism. "You can't protect yourselves against suicide bombings by apparent innocent civilians while trying to appeal to the civilian populations," he stated. Saturday's bombing occurred just outside Najaf, the world's leading center of Shiite Muslim theology and the birthplace of the radical Shiite thinking that inspired the Islamic revolution in Iran and the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, along with many smaller Shiite groups. The alumni of its religious schools include Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, whose teachings inspired Lebanon's Hezbollah movement.

As a center of religious radicalism, Najaf has a long history of rebellion against the secular Baathist regime in Baghdad, which has launched repeated bloody crackdowns against its religious leaders. But its most prominent ayatollahs called last year on Iraqi Shiites to resist any attempt by American forces to enter Iraq. The Iraqi government's statement that Saturday's bomber was an Iraqi soldier, and that there would be more such attacks, suggests that the motive was nationalist and possibly organized by Hussein's secular regime. In a television interview two weeks ago, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri suggested that the regime had recruited and trained candidates to carry out suicide bombings. "For many months, tens of thousands have volunteered to serve as martyrdom seekers in the battle with the American enemy," Sabri said. "We trained them and readied them."

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart and other commanders said U.S. and British forces

would now have to be more careful at roadblocks. U.S. forces have been using the roadblocks to maintain tight closures around Iraqi cities where they are battling with Fedayeen guerrillas and other irregular Iraqi forces to cut off the enemy's supplies and communication lines. Tensions also rose among British troops near Basra. They had been instructed to stop vehicles 50 meters from their checkpoint and tell the occupants to leave their cars and walk toward the soldiers. Soldiers then would check the occupants and their vehicles separately. "If they start coming toward us, I'll empty 200 rounds in them," said Lance Cpl. Dean Brusby, 24, as he manned a machine gun at a checkpoint on the road to Basra's airport. **Editor's Note: Tribune foreign correspondents Liz Sly and Christine Spolar and staff reporter Ray Quintanilla contributed to this report. Originally published March 30. Re-printed with permission of the Chicago Tribune.**

Efforts continued from page 1

mand-and-control facilities. Outside the strategic northern oil city of Kirkuk, Iraqi troops fled their bunkers after four days of allied air strikes. Groups of pro-U.S. Kurdish forces entered Iraqi-controlled territory for the first time. On Capitol Hill to testify in support of a \$75 billion emergency funding request for the war, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the war plan calls for coalition forces to encircle Baghdad and isolate the capital. He held out hope that the approach of coalition troops would provoke an insurrection among the capital's Shiite residents, saving U.S. troops from a bloody street-by-street battle to conquer the city of five million. He pointed out that Shiite Muslims comprise about half the population of Baghdad. The Iraqi regime is run by minority Sunni Muslims. **Tougher combat forecast** Rumsfeld also predicted that the combat likely would grow more difficult as coalition forces move closer to Baghdad. "The campaign could well grow more dangerous in the coming days and weeks," he told senators, "as the forces close in on Baghdad and begin to have to deal with the Republican Guard forces north of Tikrit [and] south of Baghdad." President Bush vowed to keep allied forces in Iraq "no matter how long it takes" to topple Hussein as military officials announced plans to send 100,000 reinforcements to Iraq, doubling their forces on the ground in the next month. Officials at Camp Lejeune, N.C., also disclosed another sobering statistic: Within the past

24 hours, as many as 11 Marines from the 2nd Expeditionary Force were listed as missing and 14 as wounded. The troops had most recently been fighting near Nasiriyah. In the same region, 25 U.S. Marines were reported wounded in a friendly fire incident, according to U.S. officials. None of the resistance in cities such as Nasiriyah and Najaf was anticipated in the military's plan, officials said. Thursday. It was built around bypassing population centers and severing the central government, then awaiting surrenders from smaller commands. "I honestly think they had us move so fast because they thought it'd be a fast collapse," said Capt. Steven Barry, commander of Cyclone Company in the 4-64 Armored Battalion. "Now that they realize it's not going to be a fast collapse, they've decided to slow down and be more deliberate."

Allied officials suggested one reason a fast collapse never transpired: They alleged that death squads were threatening the families of anyone who dares surrender. In another case of apparent coercion, 14 Iraqi tanks rolling out of Basra were not doing so by choice, according to Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks. He said he thought the crews came from the Iraqi 51st division, which allegedly collapsed in the first days of the

war. "They were pressed back into service, as best as we can tell, by the paramilitaries," Brooks said at a briefing at U.S. Central Command headquarters in Qatar. All of the tanks were destroyed by tank and aircraft fire, British officials said. **Unit down to one meal a day** U.S. and British forces continued to struggle with stiff resistance and overstretched supply lines. At least one Marine unit has been forced to ration its food provisions to one a day. Reports from Baghdad said an unknown number of people were killed and injured when a housing complex for employees of a weapons-producing facility was attacked in the Al-Yousifiah neighborhood about 12 miles south of the city. Iraq's health minister said 36 civilians were killed and 215 wounded in U.S. air strikes on Baghdad on Wednesday, and he accused U.S.-led forces of targeting civilians to break the people's will. Allied officials said they still had not determined what caused two explosions that killed 14 civilians in a Baghdad marketplace Wednesday. But in the briefing at Central Command headquarters, Brooks said it may have been caused by Iraqi missile fire. "We've seen uncontrolled surface-to-air missile fire," he said,

adding that the blasts also may have been deliberate attacks fired by Iraq to arouse anger at the United States. The allied coalition's attempts to open up a charm offensive of humanitarian relief remained bogged down Thursday when suspected mines were discovered in the channel leading to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. **Oil-for-food deal reached** Despite arguments over what role the UN will play in postwar Iraq, the world body made progress on humanitarian aid. Security Council members reached broad agreement to free billions of dollars of Iraq's oil revenues; about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people rely on rations from the nation's oil-for-food program begun several years after the 1991 Gulf War. Small-scale fighting flared up along the sprawling supply line between Kuwait and forces aligned 50 miles outside Baghdad. Artillery batteries pounded Najaf on Thursday with rockets and guided missiles, sending plumes of smoke thousands of feet high for more than 12 hours

as the Army's 3rd Infantry targeted gatherings of guerrilla troops and Iraqi military communications sites. "There [were] considerable gains made today," said Maj. Eric Wick, the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, a part of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division. "We encountered resistance last night. Those rocket-propelled grenades can do some damage and it seems their whole goal right now is to strike at us quickly, and then flee," he stated. Third Infantry officials said taking Najaf is critical to their overall plans. It is one of the few Iraqi cities with modern roads that would provide U.S. forces with a swift means of getting troops into Karbala and Baghdad. U.S. officials have said forces are bracing for a major battle near Karbala on the road to Baghdad—a fight that could determine the next stages of the war. U.S. planes carrying critically needed supplies began landing at one airstrip in northern Iraq and also at another in the south, renamed "Bush International Air-

port." On the newly opened northern front, the first large coalition ground forces settled in after a parachute drop the previous night of about 1,000 Army troops. The growing military pressure is spawning unconfirmed reports of Iraqi crackdowns against tribes refusing to take up arms against the U.S. and its allies. After meeting with Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair spoke of "the depravity of Saddam's regime" after Al-Jazeera TV showed pictures of two British soldiers Blair said were executed. In Washington, the House of Representatives called for a national day of prayer and fasting to secure divine blessings for U.S. troops at war in Iraq and for protection for Americans from terrorism. **Editor's Note: Paul Salopek reported from northern Iraq and Mike Dornin from Washington. Hugh Dellios in Qatar, Ray Quintanilla in central Iraq. Re-printed with permission from the Chicago Tribune.**

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Briefs

Easter Sunrise Service

The Fort Riley Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 20, 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. at the Fort Riley Outdoor Chapel. The service will be open to the community, and a breakfast will be served immediately following the service. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at Morris Hill Chapel. For more information, contact the installation Chaplain, 239-3359.

Spring Bazaar

The Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses Club annual Spring Bazaar and Car Show will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. at Fort Riley Middle School.

Post Wide Yard Sale

The Post Wide Yard Sale will be April 26, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Kansas State Baseball

Kansas State Baseball "Make the Connection" is now offering special military discounted tickets for the remainder of the season. Grab some friends — take the family for only \$1 per person.

Letter to the Editor

All Who Support Us In Our Time Of Sorrow, We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your kind expressions of love, sympathy, care and concern given to us dur-

ing our moment of great and sudden loss of our daughter, Faith Renee Crisostomo Meyers. It is very comforting to know our family, friends and Army family have stepped forward to assist us during this difficult time. Your presence, comforting words and compassion will be remembered and kept close in our hearts always. Thank You and God Bless, Randall, Tricia, Nia and Joe Meyers

Office Closure

Vehicle Registration will be closed on April 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. for a "hale and farewell" ceremony.

Employee of Quarter

DCA Employee of the Quarter for second quarter FY 03 is Marina Lenzner. She works at the Teen Center in Child and Youth Services as an administrative clerk. She has undertaken the USDA Food Program, gathers input from youth and staff for menus, correcting inventory of food items and ordering as needed. She is also responsible for NAF time and attendance reports. As additional duties, she has assumed responsibility for the computer technician's tasks of manning the computer lab; maintaining files; maintains the government credit card; personnel actions and central registration. Because of her exceptional work ethic, she has become a subject matter expert in nearly every administrative process in CYS.

Marriage Enrichment Class

Want to make a good marriage better? Want to better understand your spouse? Want to have your spouse better understand YOU? Come learn how to deal with misunderstandings, and how to stop the argument cycle at the monthly Marriage Enrichment Class on April 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center. Free child care is provided if you bring your child's shot records. Register by April 24, by calling 239-3436. Presented by Chaplain (MAJ) Paulson, the Fort Riley Family Life Chaplain.

Employment Readiness Program

The 2003 orientation dates are Tuesday, and again April 15, 22 and 29. Pre-registration is required. The briefings are held 9 a.m. - noon at the Soldier and Family Support Center, building 7264.

Attend the Orientation/Intake to obtain information on the current Kansas job market and employment assistance available. For more information, contact the Employment Readiness Program 785-239-9435.

Jewish Passover

The Passover will be observed from sundown April 16 through sunset April 24. During the observance, April 16, 17, 23 and 24 are days of religious obligation for personnel of the Jewish faith. Jewish soldiers should be granted leave whenever possible to ensure maximum observance. The nearest Jewish congregation is located

at 1509 Wreath Ave., Manhattan. The nearest Jewish synagogue is located at 4200 SW Munson, Topeka.

Tax Center

The Fort Riley Tax center is open. The center is located at the Army Community Service and Family and Soldier Support Center on Custer Hill, building 7264. The center's hours are: Monday - Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 230-1040.

Metalsmithing Repair Days

The Kansas State University Metalsmithing Society will host its Seventh Annual Repair Days April 11-13 at the Manhattan Arts Center Annex. The public is invited to bring in any metal object in need of repair. Free repair services will include soldering, polishing, welding, dent removal, re-tinning of copper cookware, repair of metal furniture and jewelry repair. Repair work will be accepted on April 11, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and April 12, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Finished repairs may be picked up on April 13, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jim Wallace, a master metalsmith, will give a free lecture April 11, 10:30 a.m., at the Beach Museum of Art. For more information, contact Eric Ryser, 537-0498 or e-mail redbeans21@hotmail.com

Softball Leagues

Manhattan's Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting teams for adult softball

summer leagues. Registration will close as each league is filled. For questions contact Matt McClure, 587-2757

Scholarships Available

Fort Riley Combined Scholarships are now available for spouses, graduating high school seniors and college students of any active duty, retired or deceased military member from the Fort Riley community. The application deadline is Tuesday. For more information, contact Dee Hayhurst at 587-1933, or visit the Combined Scholarship website at www.ftrileyscholar.com.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Riley post-wide yard sale is not coming soon enough. The Thrift Shop

wants to help you get rid of your extra stuff now! Call the Thrift Shop and someone will come and pick up your donations (in good condition).

Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. The Thrift Shop is looking for enthusiastic and "thrifty" people to be on the board for next year. If you are interested, call Scott Martis, 784-2351.

The Shoppe

Freshen up your home for Spring with something new from The Shoppe! The Shoppe has many new bright ideas for Easter. The Shoppe will have a booth at the OCSC Spring Bazaar...so look

for them there!

The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. The Shoppe accepts Visa & MasterCard (minimum of \$25 purchase) and offers gift certificates to make your shopping easier!

Normandy Theater

Tonight:

7 p.m.
Adaptation (R)

Saturday:

4:30 p.m.
Jungle Book 2 (G)
7 p.m.
Deliver Us From Eva (R)

Sunday:

4:30 p.m.
Jungle Book 2 (G)
7 p.m.
Adaptation (R)

Thursday:

7 p.m.
Deliver Us From Eva (R)

April 11:

7 p.m.
Gods and Generals (PG-13)

Ticket prices:
Adults - \$3
Children - \$1.50

McHale continued from page 1

that we have unless the enemy threat requires it."

On behalf of their country, McHale thanked the soldiers for being ready, and he urged them to be even more prepared.

"Do I have your word on that?" he said to the soldiers. "Hooah!" they replied.

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Korea 50 years ago -- U.N., Reds consider prisoner exchange

By Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

Truce talks resumed at the peace table after an almost six-month break, 50 years ago this week in Korea.

April 3, 1953 — The French government announces that Russia helped win the release of 14 French citizens. They include diplomats, a Catholic priest and five nun and other civilians who have been held by North Korea since June 1950.

April 3-9 — Communist forces along the line of contact in Korea continue attacks throughout the week. Most enemy actions are carried out by forces of 100-200 soldiers. U.N. forces are able to repel the enemy without permanently losing tactical positions.

The fiercest fighting is along IX Corps' east-central front. Texas Hill, held by Republic of Korea troops, comes under heavy Chinese attacks. Ownership changes hands several times during the week.

Allied air forces pound enemy communications centers and front

line positions.

Fifth Air Force reports six MiG-15s are shot down in dog-fights during the week ending April 4. Two allied planes were downed by enemy groundfire and five lost to accidents during the same week.

April 4 — Marine Corps engineers complete a 24-hour job of constructing a facility at Panmunjom to receive sick and wounded allied prisoners returned by the Reds. The talks arranging the exchange begin in two days. The prefab building contains a 65-bed infirmary to help the worst cases.

April 6-9 — Full U.N. and communist negotiating teams meet in Panmunjom for the first time since October 1952. Reassignments have changed the last meeting.

Rear Admiral John C. Daniel is the U.N. chief negotiator and North Korean Maj Gen. Lee Sang Cho is the senior communist.

Daniel has received political

and tactical briefings, as well as instructions from Gen. Mark Clark, U.N. supreme commander. He has been told not to use the word "serious" when discussing sick and wounded prisoners of war to be exchanged.

That's in hopes the Reds will include prisoners in less critical condition.

Talks proceed quickly April 6 and 7. The Reds suggest the exchange be carried out in accordance with Geneva Convention Articles 102 and 110. Article 102 states that no prisoner should be repatriated against his wishes. Under Article 110, willing prisoners who no longer can return to combat may be exchanged directly, but those who could be returned to duty within a year must be sent to a neutral country for the rest of the

war.

Lee said the communists would not insist that prisoners with less serious conditions be sent to a neutral country. However, he said that in case of a truce, they will insist that prisoners held by the United Nations who do not want to return to China or North Korea be placed in the custody of a neutral country.

The U.N. team offers to build a center at Panmunjom in which exchanges can be carried out within seven days after an agreement is reached.

Both sides agree to allow staff officers to work out administrative details of an agreement.

The sticking point comes April 8 when the communists say they will exchange about 600 U.N. soldiers, with around 150 of them

being "non-South Koreans," while the United Nations will turn over 700 Chinese and 5,100 North Koreans.

Daniel tells the communists the number of U.N. soldiers is "incredibly small in view of the total number of captured personnel you have previously indicated you have in your custody." He urges Lee to "have these figures reviewed" so "a more liberal definition ... of sick and wounded personnel" can be applied.

Lee said the Reds have already "checked the matter in detail" and he does not understand "why the figures are 'incredibly small.'"

Daniel confers with superiors but no workable solution is found to increase the number of U.N. prisoners to be exchanged. It is realized that the numbers of prisoners offered by both sides is close percentage-wise. The Reds are offering approximately 5 percent of the nearly 12,000 prisoners they hold, while the United Nations will exchange almost 4.5 percent of its 132,000 POWs.

However, the U.N. figure is much more generous considering only 81,500 of the 132,000 want to be repatriated.

Other details are discussed and agreed upon. On April 9, the Reds say they will be ready to carry out the exchanges 10 days after the agreement is signed.

April 7 — Chinese soldiers carry a wounded U.S. Marine into the no-man's land between the lines in I Corps and leave him there. They do not fire upon soldiers who go out and carry him back to their lines.

April 8 — The Defense Department announces that the fighting around Old Baldy, Pork Chop and Bunker Hills at the end of March resulted in 1,039 American casualties, the most for one week since November last year.

Those casualties raised the overall number of American casualties in Korea to 132,967, including 23,557 dead.

Fort Riley continues to be a Korean War Commemorative Community through 2003.



Accidents in rental vehicles while TDY require special action

By Camille C. Malone
Chief, SJA Claims Division

One of the worst things that can happen to a government employee while TDY is having an accident in their rental vehicle. Don't panic. The good news is that there is help available to you. If you follow these steps, you may save yourself some heartache.

First, if you are traveling on official government business and are authorized a rental vehicle, when you rent that vehicle, you must place the charge on the Bank of America Government VISA charge card issued to you. Although Bank of America issues your card, the program that offers the insurance coverage is a VISA program. Additionally, you should NOT accept any insurance or collision damage waiver from the rental agency as VISA provides primary insurance coverage on the vehicle. It is always a good idea to travel with a copy of your TDY orders and have it available as proof to the rental agency that you are traveling on official government business. Finally, before leaving the car rental agency, be sure to inspect the vehicle and make note of any damage, which may be pre-existing.

Second, should you get in an accident once you have the vehicle, you must first call the local law enforcement agency, whether it is the military police or local police. In some states, failure to report accidents may result in liability to you for the repair costs. The next step is to call the car rental agency. Then, within 20 days of the accident, you must contact VISA at 1-800-VISA-911 (1-800-847-2911) to start your claim. If you are outside of the United States, call collect, 1-410-902-8011. Once you call to start the process, VISA will send you a letter with documents to fill out. Complete the documents and return them to VISA with the

police report.

Finally, if you are unable to contact VISA within 20 days of your accident, there are other agreements between the government and most car rental agencies that determine who bears liability for damaged rental vehicles. Gen-

erally speaking, the service member will not be held liable for accidents in rental vehicles, however, as with anything else, there are exceptions. If you should find yourself in a situation where your 20 days have elapsed, contact the Claims office, 239-3830 or 239-2633, immediately for help.

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April 4, 2003

Port Riley Post

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Brownback visits with soldiers preparing for deployment

By Kim Levine
Staff Writer

The soldiers at Fort Riley and in the Middle East are heroes who

are carrying the weight of freedom on their shoulders, according to Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., who visited troops and family members on his speech to the soldiers

"You guys are doing your job, and you are going to bring liberty, freedom and an open society to the Iraqi people," said Brownback, in his speech to the soldiers

of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor. "You are going to bring freedom from terrorism to the United States," he added.

Brownback said he wanted to meet and look into the eyes of soldiers who are being deployed, and spouses whose husbands and wives are deployed.

At Barlow Theater, he visited with about 600 soldiers from 1st Bn., 13th Armor who have deployment orders, and at the Soldier and Family Support Center he met with about 30 spouses and family members.

But Brownback did not try to glamorize the war as an easy victory.

"This is a tough mission. It is incredibly difficult," he said. "We have sustained casualties, and we are putting a lot of force in this, but it's an important mission."

He said he wanted the soldiers and the family members to know they have support in their mission, and he told them their country is behind them, and the world is in debt to them.

"You are showing the world an America that has a chest, that's

not one of pride or arrogance, but one of character, virtue and valor — one that leads by example, not by demand," said Brownback. "We are honored that you are serving this country."

The senator's visit raised the morale of the unit, who has deployment orders for a while, and is now just waiting to go, said Capt. Rick Fisher, assistant operations officer, 1st Bn., 13th Armor.

"This breaks up the monotony for our soldiers," said Fisher. "It will send them off on a high note."

The soldiers appreciated the support, said 1st Lt. Rob Yllescas, armor platoon leader, 1st Bn., 13th Armor.

"It's a tremendous morale boost to see elected officials support us in our cause, and it's nice to know that at least certain members of the government are behind us," said Yllescas.

Col. Russell Gold, commander, 3rd Brigade, presented the senator with membership into the "Order of the Dog," the brigade's fraternity, honoring him for visiting the troops.

"We know the public is behind

us, and now we know the politicians are behind us, and when you get those two together, there is no stopping us," said Gold.

Brownback also emphasized his thanks to the spouses and family members of deployed soldiers.

"I really appreciate what you are doing, and the nation really appreciates what you are doing and the sacrifices your family has made," he said. "Our effort is to change the Iraqi regime, and your spouses will get that accomplished."

Brownback opened the floor for questions and discussions with the spouses, and listened to the concerns they had.

"I'm glad he got to see the family side," said Elizabeth Gahner, whose husband is deployed with 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. "Sen. Brownback's comments were heartfelt, and I could tell he really cared."

The senator said it was reaffirming to see the spouses be so positive about their husbands and wives' deployment, and to see the troops in high spirits and ready to go.



Post-Watson

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., shakes hands with Pfc. Michael Arvin, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, during his visit to Fort Riley March 28.

Driving Under Influence statistics reported, results disturbing

Provost Marshal Office

The numbers for Driving Under the Influence on Fort Riley are in. Furthermore, they are quite disturbing. Per capita, Fort Riley sits atop the pack for DUI violations as compared with other divisions of comparable size.

In the last four years, the DUI rate for Fort Riley has been on a roller coaster ride, ranging from 304 apprehensions in FY 99, to 222 in FY00, 265 in FY01 and 228 apprehensions in FY02.

This is an average of 255 DUI apprehensions per fiscal year, or 1.43 DUI apprehensions every day!

Soldiers apprehended for DUI violations aren't the only ones affected with severe consequences. Unit cohesion, esprit-de-corps and morale are affected by DUI mission accomplishment is affected by the loss of a valuable team member; small family groups are affected by the loss of money through diversions; increased insurance rates, damage repairs and trust. Communities are affected through increased insurance rates, paranoia (fear of allowing their children play outside) and possibly the death of a community member. All in the name of fun!

More offenders are asked by their chain-of-command, "What were you thinking?" The response, more often than not, is, "I wasn't thinking." This type of answer will not relieve the remorse or regret often associated with a DUI apprehension.

Fort Riley has been very fortunate in that all of the FY2002 DUI apprehensions were through random stops and no serious injury or fatality was involved. Thinking in broader terms, one must ask, "Will 'sorry' give my battle buddy the use of his legs? Will, 'I wasn't thinking' bring back someone's son or daughter?" Inevitably not.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stated:

"State laws in 31 states make it a criminal offense to operate a motor vehicle at a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 g/dl. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have adopted 0.08 g/dl. Two states and Puerto Rico do not have illegal per se BAC levels." Their annual statistics show that forty percent of the persons who were killed in traffic crashes in 2000 died in alcohol-related crashes. Ten percent of the injured persons received their injuries in alcohol-related crashes, and of the children 0-14 years old who were killed in alcohol-related crashes during 2000, almost half (223) were passengers in vehicles with drivers who had been drinking, with blood alcohol concentration levels of 0.01 gram per deciliter (g/dl) or higher. Across the nation, more and more people are killed in alcohol related accidents. Many are wives, children and extended families that are going about their daily business and fall victim to a drunk driver.

Kansas Statute Annotated 8-1567 states:

No person shall operate or attempt to operate any vehicle within this state while:

1. The alcohol concentration in the person's blood or breath as

shown by any competent evidence is .08 or more;

2. Under the influence of any drug or combination of drugs to a degree that renders the person incapable of safely driving a vehicle; or

Penalties include: First conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a class B, non-person misdemeanor and sentenced to not less than 48 consecutive hours nor more than six months' imprisonment or, in the court's discretion, 100 hours of public service, and fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000. The person convicted must serve at least 48 consecutive hours' imprisonment or 100 hours of public service either before or as a condition of any grant of probation or suspension, reduction of sentence or parole. In addition, the court shall enter an order which requires that the person enroll in, and successfully complete, an alcohol and drug safety education program or treatment program as provided in K.S.A. 8-1008.

On the second conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a class A, non-person misdemeanor and sentenced to not less than 90 days nor more than one year's imprisonment and fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$1,500. The person convicted must serve at

least five consecutive days' imprisonment before the person is granted probation.

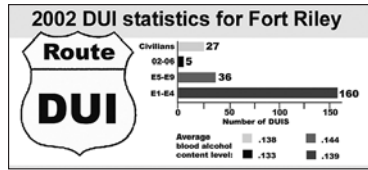
With the third conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a non-person felony and sentenced to not less

than 90 days nor more than one year's imprisonment and fined not less than \$1,500 nor more than \$2,500. The person convicted shall not be eligible for release on probation, suspension or reduction of sentence or parole until the person has served at least 90 days' imprisonment.

On the fourth or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a non-person felony and sentenced to not less than 90 days nor more than one year's imprisonment and fined of \$2,500. The person convicted shall not be eligible for release on probation, suspension or reduction of sen-

tence or parole until the person has served at least 90 days' imprisonment.

Any person convicted of violating this section or an ordinance, which prohibits the acts that this section prohibits, who had a child



Post Graphic/Watson

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Families say farewell to soldiers deploying to CENTCOM area

By Lori Bultman
Editor

Soldiers from the 300th Military Police Company said goodbye to family and friends Saturday as they departed for unknown areas of Central Command operations. A deployment ceremony was held at King Field house, and Lt. Col. Pamela Martis, commander, 924 MP Battalion, gave the soldiers encouragement as they prepared to leave.

The soldiers entered the gym and moved into formation. They then stood at attention waiting to depart, while the families watched

and waved their final goodbyes.

Martis spoke to the troops and reminded them that they are ready for the mission ahead.

"You are trained and ready and prepared to support the directives of our commander in chief and the objectives of our nation for freedom and security," she said.

"You are ready. We know you are ready. You know you are ready. I know you will do well."

Although the soldiers goal at the ceremony may have been to tell loved ones goodbye, Martis reminded them to focus on the task ahead.

"You need to focus on your mission — focus on taking care of

each other and doing what is right, because you know what right looks like," she said. "We will focus on taking care of your families and making sure they have the information they need and the help that they need."

Martis gave the soldiers final words of support before their departure.

"Each of you will be in our thoughts and our prayers. God Bless — God speed on your journeys. Always forward. Duty first."

The Army song was played, and then "Are you ready for this" blasted from the speakers as the soldiers exited the building.



Post-Bibles

Spc. Robyn McClure, 300th Military Police Company, receives a smallpox vaccination from Col. Linda Atteberry, division surgeon, 24th Infantry Division, during the company's manifest Saturday. The MP company held their manifest at Craig Fitness Center after their deployment ceremony at the King Field House.

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